

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5341

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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TAGS: ETRD, EEC, RO

SUBJ: GENERALIZED PREFERENCES: THE EC DECISION TO INCLUDE ROMANIA

REFS: A. BUCHAREST 2076 B. EC BRUSSELS 573

1. SUMMARY. THE EC HAS AGREED TO INCLUDE ROMANIA
AS A BENEFICIARY UNDER ITS GENERALIZED PREFERENCE
SCHEME. THE COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES WILL NOW
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DEVELOP THE SPECIFIC TERMS UNDER WHICH ROMANIA WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT BECAUSE OF ROMANIA'S COMPETITIVE POSITION IT WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM BENEFITS IN SEVERAL KEY INDUSTRIAL SECTORS INCLUDING TEXTILES, STEEL PRODUCTS, SHOES, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT ITS JUNE 4 MEETING, THE EC COUNCIL AGREED TO INCLUDE ROMANIA AS A BENEFICIARY UNDER ITS GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SCHEME. THE QUESTION OF BENEFICIARY STATUS FOR ROMANIA HAS BEEN AN ISSUE IN THE EC SINCE EARLY IN 1972 WHEN ROMANIA -- THE FIRST OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO DO SO -- FORMALLY REQUESTED SUCH STATUS FROM THE COMMUNITY. THE QUESTION HAS BEEN ON THE EC COUNCIL AGENDA FOR SEVERAL MONTHS (SEE REFTEL B) BUT THE MEMBER STATES HAVE POSTPONED ACTION UNTIL NOW WHILE DISCUSSING MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND THE HANDLING OF INDUSTRIAL CONCESSIONS AND/ OR GPS STATUS FOR COUNTRIES IN THAT AREA.

3. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL MUST NOW BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE COMMISSION WORKING WITH THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL, IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BEGIN TO WORK OUT THE SPECIAL REGIME UNDER WHICH ROMANIA WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY'S GPS SCHEME. A COMMISSION SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B, ROMANIA'S COMPETITIVENESS IN CERTAIN FIELDS WILL RESULT IN ITS BEING EXCLUDED FROM BENEFITS UNDER THE EC'S SCHEME IN SEVERAL KEY INDUSTRIAL SECTORS INCLUDING TEXTILE PRODUCTS, SHOES, ECSC PRODUCTS, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND MOST OTHER SENSITIVE PRODUCTS.

4. OUR SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE ROMANIANS, AWARE THAT THEY MIGHT BE EXCLUDED FROM BENEFITS IN THE ABOVE FIELDS, HAVE QUIETLY COMPLAINED ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE EXCLUSIONS AND THE TENDENCY FOR THIS TO GUT THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EC ACTION. OUR SOURCE CLAIMS HE TOLD THE ROMANIANS TO CONCENTRATE FIRST ON BEING INCLUDED IN THE EC SCHEME AND ONCE INSIDE TO WORK TOWARD GREATER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BENEFITS. THE COUNCIL HAS, OF COURSE, STATED THAT THE TERMS UNDER WHICH ROMANIA WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY'S SCHEME WILL BE DETERMINED ON AN AUTONOMOUS AND NON- BINDING BASIS BY THE COMMUNITY, I. E., THEY WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION WITH ROMANIA.

5. THE COMMUNITY IS WELL AWARE THAT ROMANIA WENT
OUT ON A LIMB WHEN IT MADE ITS FORMAL REQUEST
DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL FOR INCLUSION IN THE
COMMUNITY' S SCHEME. TO SOME EXTENT A FAVORABLE
REPLY WAS INEVITABLE IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF
IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER STATE COUNTRIES
AND EASTERN EUROPE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER,
TO WHAT EXTENT THE COMMUNITY WILL PROVIDE ROMANIA
WITH ANY MEANINGFUL BENEFITS.
HARTMAN

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